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MASTERFUL PERFORMANCE

Mickelson wins his third green jacket after an emotional year 12

A SUPREME SHOWDOWN

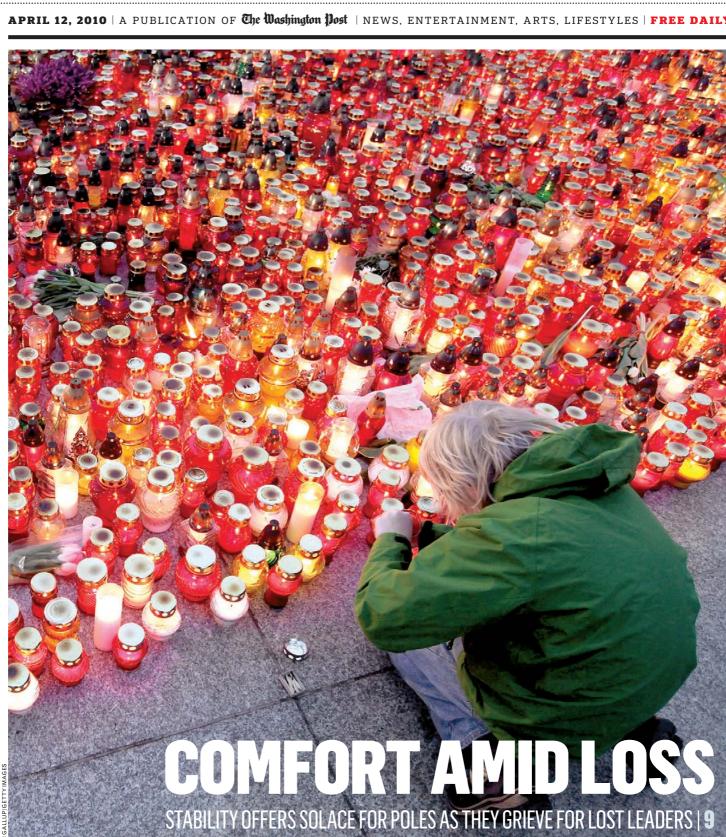
GOP preps for battle if Obama's high court pick is an 'ideologue' **4**



POETIC LICENSE

Natalie Merchant sings in verse on her sleepy new album 23







Crazy Cat Lady Required By Title to Defend Animal

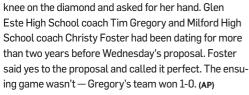
Britain's postal service says it has suspended deliveries to a woman after repeated attacks by her 19-year-old cat. Royal Mail said Friday that it had halted deliveries because postal workers had already sustained "nasty injuries" at the address in the town of Farsley. The woman says she found it hard to believe that her cat, named Tiger, could be behind the attacks, since the animal spent most of its day sleeping. (AP)

"We want to show that you don't have to be stiff and starchy to love God."

— **ASSISTANT PASTOR CHRIS LINDBERG,** MAKING A CON-FUSING FOOD PUN AFTER HIS FRISCO, TEXAS, CHURCH TRIED TO BREAK THE WORLD RECORD FOR LARGEST SERVING OF NACHOS.

Future Children Will Rebel by Playing Tennis

An Ohio high school softball coach threw a curve at the rival team's coach when he dropped to one







A CROWD OF ABOUT 20,000 people watch the implosion of Texas Stadium, the longtime home of the Dallas Cowboys, on Sunday morning. Hundreds arrived Saturday and stayed up all night for a "final tailgate." The Cowboys played 38 seasons in the landmark structure before moving to a new stadium last season. (AP)

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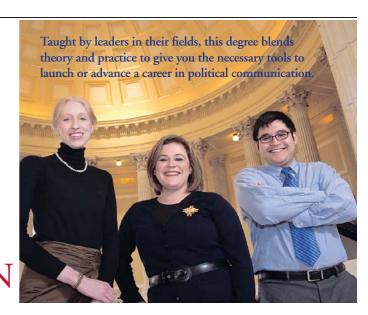
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Nation

In Brief

SAN DIEGO

Series of Small Quakes Hit Southern California

A cluster of moderate earthquakes near the U.S.-Mexico border is continuing to rattle southern California one week after a magnitude-7.2 quake slammed the area. The U.S. Geological Survey says a magnitude-4.4 earthquake struck at 9:42 a.m. Sunday, about 11 miles west of downtown Calexico. At least 17 other small quakes were also reported in the same area Sunday. No injuries or damage were reported. (AP)

MUSKOGEE, OKLA.

Mall Shooting Kills One

Gunfire broke out inside a crowded Oklahoma shopping mall late Saturday, leaving a teenager dead and several injured in what witnesses described as a gunfight, police said. It was unclear whether the person killed, 17-year-old Jarrod Reed of Muskogee, was among several people involved in the shooting or a bystander, police said. (AP)

washingtonpost.com

Congress is poised for another partisan showdown over extending unemployment insurance, as concerns about the budget deficit have complicated the path forward for a popular program.

Obama Puts Pledge to the Test

President to pursue vision of a nuke-free world in key summit

Washington

President Obama's pledge to one day rid the world of nuclear weapons runs up against global realities this week when representatives from 47 countries try to craft an agreement on keeping nuclear weapons out of terrorists' hands.

Sweeping or even bold new strategies are unlikely to emerge from the two-day gathering that begins Monday. But Obama invited the swarm of world leaders as an important step to intensify global focus on one of the most serious nuclear proliferation threats: a world in which non-state actors such as al-Qaeda have the ability to obtain nuclear materials.

"The single biggest threat to U.S. security ... would be the possibility of a terrorist organization obtaining a nuclear weapon. This is something that could change the security landscape in this country and around the world for years to



President Obama conducted a round of talks with leaders on Sunday in Washington.

come," Obama said Sunday as he conducted bilateral meetings with world leaders.

"We know that organizations like al-Qaeda are in the process of trying to secure nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction, and would have no compunction at using them," Obama said.

The president has set a goal of ensuring all nuclear materials worldwide are secured from theft or diversion within four years.

On the table, too, will be Iran's perceived attempts to build a nuclear weapon in violation of the glob-

Israel's Absence



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision Thursday to abruptly cancel a trip to this week's

nuclear conference in Washington spotlighted a key sore point in international nonproliferation efforts: Israel's own atomic weapons. Israel's official policy of "nuclear ambiguity" — neither confirming nor denying that it has nuclear weapons — angers many Muslim countries, which have long complained that there is a double standard. (AP)

al Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and North Korea's nuclear weapons stockpile.

"We want to get the world's attention focused where we think it needs to be with these continuing efforts by al-Qaeda and others to get just enough nuclear material to cause terrible havoc," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in an interview broadcast Sunday on ABC's "This Week." (AP)



BLOWBACK

Sen. Chuck Schumer says he's trying to get the government to prohibit airlines from charging a fee for carry-on baggage, calling it a "slap in the face to travelers." The New York Democrat is

making a personal plea to the Treasury Department to rule that carry-on bags are a necessity for travel, which would make them exempt from a separate fee outside the ticket price. Sprint Airlines last week became the first airline to charge for carry-ons. (AP)

Spring Allergies?

Spring Has Sprung.

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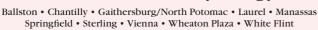
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Nation

GOP: No 'Ideologue' Pick

Republicans gear up for clash over next high court nominee

Washington

President Obama may have a fight on his hands if he names an "ideologue" to replace retiring Justice John Paul Stevens on the Supreme Court, Republicans say.

"I don't know whether they will show any self-restraint or whether they will just try to jam through an ideologue, which, of course, would provoke a lot of fireworks," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, a member of the Senate Judiciary

Stevens, a leader of the court's liberal wing, announced on Friday he will step down when the high



Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens announced his retirement Friday.

court concludes its term in June. The Senate last year confirmed Obama's first Supreme Court nominee, Sonia Sotomayor, with nine Republican votes.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.,

suggested the stakes will be high even if Obama's nominee isn't likely to shift the balance on the closely divided court.

"I'd like the new nominee to be one of five, not one of four when the votes come up, and somebody who would be quite persuasive in terms of influencing other justices," Schumer, a member of the Judiciary Committee, said Sunday.

Republican senators Sunday declined to rule out the possibility that they would mount a filibuster to derail a nominee.

Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., also a member of the Judiciary Committee, said that while a filibuster isn't off the table, it should be used only in "extraordinary circumstances," such as to oppose a nominee who is "overly ideological."

LAURA LITVAN (BLOOMBERG)



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If you (or someone you know) have been diagnosed with major depression, you may be able to participate in a National Institute of Mental Health research study investigating a novel medication. This treatment study is studying if a research medication can produce a rapid reduction of depressive symptoms in patients with treatment-resistant major depressive disorder.

This 7-week inpatient study is conducted at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and compares the medication to a placebo (inactive salt solution). After completion of the study the participant will receive short-term treatment to transition back to the community. In addition, all research participation is without cost.

Those eligible to participate must:

- Be ages 18-65
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- Have taken two antidepressants that did not help

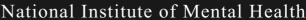
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e-mail: moodresearch@mail.nih.gov (TTY: 1-866-411-1010) http://patientinfo.nimh.nih.gov Adult Depression

09-M-0240





U.S. Airlines Score Higher Marks With Fliers

Complaints dropped in '09 as more planes arrived on schedule

Washington

Some things did go right for U.S. fliers last year: Planes were more likely to land on time, and bags were less likely to get lost.

As a result, passengers reported fewer complaints in 2009 even while cash-strapped airlines reduced flight schedules and charged for everything from pillows to prime spots in boarding lines.

One cloud in the otherwise friendly skies was a slight increase in denied boardings, mostly bump-



About 704 million people flew on U.S. airlines in 2009, according to a new report.

ings due to overbooking.

Airline on-time performance has improved the past two years, but it's mainly because fewer people are flying. There were 704 million U.S. airline passengers last year, compared with 770 million in 2007, the busiest year since before Sept. 11, 2001.

More than 79 percent of flights arrived on time in 2009, 3.4 percent better than a year earlier.

Fewer than one in every 100,000 passengers filed complaints with the Department of Transportation, down slightly from the previous year. Flight problems such as cancellations, delays or other schedule deviations accounted for nearly one-quarter of complaints, followed by baggage (18.7 percent); reservations, ticketing and boarding (15.1 percent); and customer service (13.9 percent).

The findings, based on an analysis of government statistics, are in the latest annual report by private researchers. JOAN LOWY (AP)

Hearsav



"It's trying to make a big deal out of something that doesn't amount to diddly."

- MISS. GOV. HALEY BARBOUR, ON THE FUROR THAT ERUPTED AFTER VA. GOV. BOB MCDONNELL OMITTED SLAVERY IN A CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH DECREE.

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Weekend Review



MONTCOAL, W.VA.

Four Miners Found Dead. Raising Death Toll to 29

Searchers found four bodies deep in a West Virginia coal mine shattered by an explosion Friday, raising the death toll to 29 and ending an excruciating week for families holding on to faint hopes for missing loved ones. "We did not receive the miracle that we prayed for," West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin said. (AP)

NEW YORK

Dow Briefly Crosses 11K

The stock market closed at an 18-month high Friday, with the Dow Jones industrial average briefly touching 11,000 before falling slightly. The gains were driven by fresh signs that the economy continues to recover. The Dow hadn't crossed the 11,000 mark since Sept. 29, 2008. (AP)



1 "The tea party did not run me out. ... My No. 1 legislative goal has been accom-

REP. BART STUPAK, ANNOUNCING HIS RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS ON FRIDAY IN MICHIGAN. STUPAK WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE PASSAGE OF HEALTH CARE REFORM.

•••••

4 DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

Zuma Blasts ANC Figure

A day after mourners laid to rest a prominent white supremacist, South African President Jacob Zuma tried to rein in the outspoken youth leader of his African National Congress party. Zuma said Julius Malema — who recently performed an anti-apartheid song — and other party leaders should "think before they speak." (AP)



Standoff in Bangkok

Thai riot police confront an anti-government protester in Bangkok on Saturday. Opposition supporters vowed to continue their efforts to urge the prime minister to call new elections after security forces killed 21 protesters in the country's worst political violence in nearly two decades.

6 MOSCOW

Russia Threatens to Halt Adoptions by Americans

Russia threatened to suspend all child adoptions by U.S. families Friday after a 7-year-old boy adopted by a woman from Tennessee was sent alone on a one-way flight back to Moscow with a note saying he was violent and had severe psychological problems. The boy, Artyom Savelyev, was put on a plane by his adopted grandmother, Nancy Hansen of Shelbyville, Tenn. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov called the incident "the last straw" in a string of U.S. adoptions gone wrong, including three in which Russian children had died in the U.S. (AP)

DUBAI, U.A.E.

U.S. Warship Captures Six Suspected Pirates

A U.S. warship captured six suspected pirates Saturday after a battle off the Horn of Africa—the Navy's third encounter with bandits in less than two weeks. (AP)

8 CORAIL-CESSELESSE, HAITI

The number of Haitian quake survivors in Petionville camps who the U.N. on Saturday began to relocate. The camps are at high risk of floods during the looming rainy season. (AP)

World

Eurozone Offers Greece \$40B

16 nations announce rescue plan in effort to allay fears of crisis

European officials on Sunday agreed to make as much as \$40 billion in below-market-rate loans available to Greece, hoping to allay fears about a possible economic collapse in the troubled country.

In an emergency videoconference among finance ministers, the 16 nations that use the euro added critical detail to the largely conceptual rescue plan they had approved last month.

Without those details — the amount of money involved and the interest rate to be paid — markets remained skeptical that Greece could raise the money needed for its government to continue operating amid high deficits and a weak economy. The result was a historic spike in the interest rates paid by the southern European nation, waning interest in its bond issues — and rising concern about a possible default by one of the "eurozone" countries.

The loans would be made available at 5 percent — compared to

the more-than 7.5 percent rates Greece's 10-year bonds touched last week. Additional loans would be made available by the International Monetary Fund, though the amount and terms of that assistance would be worked out when — or if — Greece asks for help.

So far, the nation has said it wants to try to manage its problems on its own and has not asked for assistance, hoping that the promise of it alone will help it restructure its debts at a reasonable cost. Sunday's statement could prove important toward that end: If investors know that Greece can now tap money at

5 percent if it needs to, market interest rates should moderate.

European leaders said the plan is an important acknowledgement that the 16 eurozone nations will stand behind the common currency, as well as behind the concept of a more integrated European economy.

The crisis in Greece had raised doubts about the survival of the euro, creating as it did a situation where more economically healthy nations like Germany are now having to take responsibility for the problems of others. HOWARD SCHNEIDER (THE WASHINGTON POST)



Deposed Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev defended his rule on Sunday.

Bakiyev Denounces 'Coup' in Kyrgyzstan

Teyit, Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan's deposed president on Sunday defended the legitimacy of his rule and urged the United Nations to send peacekeepers to help stabilize the strategically vital Central Asian nation.

President Kurmanbek Bakiyev told The Associated Press in an interview at his home village in the south of the country that he had not ordered police to fire at protesters in the capital.

Bakiyev fled the capital, Bishkek, on Wednesday after a protest rally against corruption, rising utility bills and deteriorating rights exploded into gunfire and chaos that left at least 81 people dead.

He denounced the protest as a "coup" and angrily rejected the self-proclaimed interim government's demand to step down. "I'm the head of state," he said.

The stalemate has left Kyrgyzstan's near-term stability in doubt, a worry for the West because of the U.S. air base in Kyrgyzstan that is a crucial element in the international military campaign against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The head of interim government, Roza Otunbayeva, said Sunday that Bakiyev must face trial, rescinding an earlier offer of security guarantees for him. PETER LEONARD (AP)

In Brief

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Center-Right Leads Polls

Hungary's center-right Fidesz party took a commanding lead in the first round of parliamentary elections on Sunday, while Jobbik, a far-right party with an anti-Gypsy and extreme nationalist agenda, was a strong third just behind the governing Socialists. (AP)

TEHRAN, IRAN

Supreme Leader: U.S. Policy Threatens Iran

Iran's supreme leader said Sunday that President Obama has "implicitly threatened" Iran with nuclear weapons in a newly outlined U.S. policy, and Tehran said it intends to file a formal complaint with the U.N. Obama announced a new U.S. nuclear strategy last week, including a vow not to use nuclear weapons against countries that do not have them. (AP)

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS

Gang Shootout Kills Nine

A shootout between rival street gangs battling for control of the drug trade killed nine people in Honduras overnight, an official said Sunday. The shooters and victims were all believed to be associated with two notorious gangs: the Mara Salvatrucha and the rival Mara 18. (AP)

Grim Recovery in Brazil



 $\textbf{RESCUE WORKERS} \ carry \ the \ body \ of a \ landslide \ victim \ in \ Niteroi, Brazil, on Sunday. Brazilian \ officials \ said \ the \ death \ toll \ from \ floods \ and \ mudslides \ near \ Rio \ de \ Janeiro \ rose \ to \ more \ than 215 \ as \ crews \ continued \ to \ dig \ through \ the \ debris.$

U.S. Officials Express Support for Afghan Leader

Kabul

After days of discord, U.S. officials on Sunday went one step further in their new gentler approach to Afghan President Hamid Karzai, expressing sympathy for the pressure he faces.

U.S.-Afghan relations grew tense last week when Karzai lashed

out against the international community, accusing it of a "vast fraud" in last year's polls. Karzai also reportedly told a group of parliament members that if foreign interference in his government continued, he might join the Taliban.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs described Karzai's remarks as "troubling." But the American

tone quickly softened. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Robert Gates blitzed Sunday TV news shows to call Karzai a reliable partner.

"Some of these outlandish claims that are being made and accusations that are being hurled are really unfortunate," Clinton told CBS' "Face the Nation." (AP)

World

A 'Taste of Democracy' in Sudan

Al-Bashir expected to win in country's first poll in 24 years

Khartoum, Sudan

Given the 24-year lag since Sudan's last multiparty election, voting in Sunday's Sudan election proceeded rather smoothly.

On the first day of the three-day vote, millions crowded into polling stations across the country to choose their president, their national and state assemblies, their governors, and other local officials in a complex balloting process that Sudan's National Election Commission says



Sudanese line up to vote at a polling station in Terekeka, in Sudan's south, Sunday.

was designed to prevent fraud.

Several parties have boycotted the elections in general, cit-

ing fears of rigging by the government, and the nation's two largest opposition parties — including an armed former rebel group that runs the semiautonomous south of the country — have withdrawn their

The number of

Sudanese presidential candidates who are boycotting the election, out of 12 candidates total.

presidency, leaving President Omar al-Bashir as a virtual shoo-in.

candidates for the

But with nearly 100,000 soldiers deployed across northern Sudan to keep security, and police kept on high alert, the first day

passed without significant violence. And for those who voted Sunday, the experience was an affirmation that normal citizens, on paper, do have a say in their country's future.

At polling stations across Khartoum, even those who expressed their doubts about whether the Sudanese public was actually ready for democracy said that today was an historic opportunity for Sudan to put 22 years of war behind it.

"As an African and as an Arab, I can say that we need some time for democracy to take hold in Sudan," says Bahauddin Ibrahim Mohamad, a civil engineer voting in Omdurman. "I actually appreciate the military government. Until people get to know how to rule themselves with democracy, we need a strong leader. If people get a taste of democracy, they'll think that they are strong and then may break this democracy, giving the military a reason to come back again." SCOTT BALDAUF (CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR)

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Cover Story

Old Wounds, Fresh Pain

A steadfast Poland grieves for leaders lost in a tragedy tinged with symbolism

Warsaw. Poland

Poland's government moved swiftly Sunday to show that it was staying on course after the deaths of its president and dozens of political, military and religious leaders, even as tens of thousands of Poles expressed their grief over the plane crash in Russia that shocked the country.

New acting chiefs of the military were already in place and an interim director of the central bank was named Sunday, with work running as usual, said Pawel Gras, a government spokesman.

It was a rare positive note on a day wracked by grief for the 96 dead and laced with reminders of Poland's dark history with its powerful neighbor. The Saturday crash occurred in thick fog near the Katyn forest, where Josef Stalin's secret police in 1940 systematically executed thousands of Polish military officers in the western Soviet Union.

President Lech Kaczynski and those aboard the aging Sovietbuilt plane had been headed there to honor the dead. A preliminary analysis showed the plane had been working fine, a Russian investigator said.

Tens of thousands of Poles softly sang the national anthem and tossed flowers at the hearse carrying the 60-year-old Kaczynski's body Sunday to the presidential palace after it was returned from Russia's Smolensk airport, the site of the crash.

The coffin bearing the president's remains were met first by his daughter Marta, whose mother, the first lady, Maria Kaczynska, also perished in the crash. She knelt before it, her forehead resting on the coffin.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev declared Monday a day of mourning in Russia, and his country held two minutes of silence in mem-



 $Polish \, Prime \, Minister \, Donald \, Tusk \, kneels \, in \, front \, of \, the \, coffin \, containing \, the \, late \, Polish \, President \, Lech \, Kaczynski \, on \, Sunday.$

Katyn's Tragic History

SYMBOLIC ACCIDENT: The historical symbolism of the accident that killed Polish President Lech Kaczynski could hardly have been worse. Kaczynski and his delegation had been on their way to mark the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre, in which Soviet secret police murdered 20,000 Polish military officers and buried them in the Katyn forest in western Russian.

HARD FEELINGS: For many Poles, that slaughter epitomized their relations with Russia, which had been subjected to long periods of domination from Moscow that came to an end only with the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989.

A PAINFUL IRONY: The Soviet Union denied and covered up the atrocity for half a century and, in a bitter irony, this ceremony had been intended as a moment of reconciliation. "It's hard to deny that this tragedy seems to have a strong mystical profile, as if it were some sort of sign," says Sergei Markov, a Duma deputy with the ruling United Russia Party and a Kremlin adviser. (CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR)

ory of those killed in the crash.

Church bells pealed at noon and emergency sirens shrieked for nearly a minute before fading. Hundreds bowed their heads, eyes closed, in front of the presidential palace. Buses and trams halted in the streets. No date for a funeral has been set, and the Polish presidential palace has not yet said whether Kaczynski will lie in state, though it is not a Polish tradition. Kaczynski was the first serving Polish leader to die since exiled World War II-era leader Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski was killed in a mysterious plane crash off Gibraltar in 1943.

The acting president, Parliament Speaker Bronislaw Komorowski, said he would call for early elections within 14 days, in line with the constitution. The vote must be held within another 60 days.

Poland is a young democracy, adopting its constitution in 1997 after decades under communism, but political scientist Kazimierz Kik of Kielce University said he was confident it would remain stable.

"The democracy is passing the test; there is no doubt about it," he said. "This tragedy does not threaten the state in any measure. Poland's institutions are strong, but there is the trauma of the nation." (AP)

Painful Losses

When Poland lost its president and top military brass Saturday in a plane crash that killed 96, it also lost much of its living history and other elite members of society. Among the dead:



Ryszard Kaczorowski, 90, the last leader of Poland's exiled government in London. The exile leadership was es-

tablished during the Nazi occupation of Poland and continued to declare itself the rightful government during the decades of communism, until Walesa became Poland's first popularly elected president in 1990.



Anna Walentynowicz, 80, was an icon of Poland's Solidarity freedom movement. Workers at the Lenin Ship-

yard in Gdansk went on strike when Walentynowicz was fired from her job as a crane operator in 1980 for her opposition activity. Strikes spread to other plants across the nation, giving rise to the movement that helped bring about the demise of communism in Poland nine years later.



Slawomir Skrzypek, 46, the head of the National Bank of Poland, was an architect of its economic stability dur-

ing the recent global crisis.



Several of Poland's top military officers, including the army chief of staff, Gen. Franciszek Gagor, 58; the

navy's Vice Admiral Andrzej Karweta, 51; Gen. Andrzej Blasik, 47, from the air force; and the top commander of the ground forces, Gen. Tadeusz Buk, 49.

Money

Don't Let a Good Perk Go to Waste

Attentive users can maximize the value of rewards cards

Personal Finance

To sweeten credit card offers that come with annual fees, banks are increasingly promising richer cash rebates, airline miles and other rewards.

What isn't advertised is that banks can strip away those rewards for any number of reasons.

It could be you made a late payment or that your account was inactive for too long. The rules vary wildly across the industry, but most programs have at least one catch that can result in a rewards wipeout. You may not even notice your points are disappearing if you're not looking.

Despite recent credit card reforms, there are still few regulations governing rewards programs. So, as you consider new card offers, or look to make the most of current accounts, here's what you should know.



Expiration Dates

It's common for rewards to expire after a set time. Bank of America and Citi, two of the country's biggest card issuers, allow five years to use your points.

That might seem like a generous window, except few cardholders are in the habit of redeeming points regularly. Knowing when your points are about to expire can be tricky, too, since banks don't always warn you. So, check your balance at least once a year to see whether it's time to cash in.

Inactivity, Late Payments

These are two other ways you can lose points. At Discover, for example, all rewards are erased if an account is inactive for 18 months. Your card rewards could also be held hostage if you make a late payment.

Rewards Transfers

If you're sitting on a cache of miles or points that are about to expire, check whether you can transfer them to friends or family. With airline programs, there's usually a fee of 1 cent per mile on transfers to another account.

Charitable Donations

It's common to have the option to donate reward points or miles to charity. The breadth of options varies; American Express lets cardholders pick from a database of 1 million nonprofit groups, while Bank of America cardholders can pick from about a dozen charities.

Note that donated credit card points and miles generally aren't tax-deductible.

Other Uses

Even if you don't have enough miles for a free flight, check whether there are smaller rewards you'd like such as a gift certificate, hotel room or rental car. Many programs will also let you buy the extra miles or points you need if you're just short of a big prize. CANDIGE CHOI (AP)

DISCUSSIONS

Homebuying

If you're thinking of taking advantage of the government's home-buyer tax credit, you must have a contract to purchase a home by the end of this month. If you're convinced a new home may be in your future, consider some of the basic rules.

Who qualifies?

To qualify as a first-time home-buyer, you must not have owned a home in the last three years. The tax credit is 10 percent of the purchase price of a home up to a maximum of \$8,000. To qualify for a smaller credit as a long-time resident, you must have owned and used the same home as your principal residence for at least five consecutive years.

When is the deadline?

You must enter into a binding contract to buy a home before May 1, 2010, and close before July 1, 2010.

How is the credit awarded?

The credit is claimed on IRS Form 5405, First-Time Homebuyer Credit, which was revised in December. (AP)

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All rates and offers are as of April 5, 2010, offered for a limited time, and subject to change without notice. At a 4.000% initial interest rate, the APR for this loan type is 4.166%, and can increase. Based on current market conditions, the monthly payment schedule for a \$600,000 loan would be 60 payments of \$2,865 at an interest rate of 4.000%, then 299 payments of \$2,940 at 4.250% followed by 1 payment of \$2,941 at 4.250%. (Principal and interest only. Payment will be higher with taxes and insurance.) The initial rate can change every 5 years by no more than 2% up or down, never to exceed 5% above the initial rate. The adjusted rate will be the lower of the then current index and margin or then current 5-yr ARM rate. *Investment proviser is used. If a loan is withdrawn, does not close, or the purchase contract is terminated, all third-party fees and costs incurred will become the responsibility of the applicant. Other terms and conditions for lender's fees may apply; please contract a mortgage representative for details. Different terms and conditions may apply in Puerto Rico.



Local

Poll: D.C.-Area Traffic Worsens

Survey shows more people skip commute by working at home

Washington

Most people say traffic has gone from bad to worse in this region that perennially ranks as one of the most congested in the nation with more than a quarter of workers occasionally skipping the commute entirely by dialing in from home, according to a new poll by The Washington Post.

Traffic congestion has become a form of personal purgatory for the million and a half regional residents who commute to work every day, each spending an estimated 62 hours a year battling heavy traffic. Sixty percent of people surveyed say traffic has grown worse in the past five years.

Overall, among those employed outside the home, 28 percent have



Residents in the region spend an estimated 62 hours per year battling heavy traffic.

decided to bypass the gridlock by working remotely, and the same figure report that they have moved closer to work to ease their commutes. About four in 10 people who telecommute say they do so at least once a week.

Not everyone has the option to

work at home using a computer, and the poll shows big income differences among those who have the option to telecommute and those who don't.

Nearly half of workers from families who earn \$150,000 or more each year say they've telecommut-

ed, compared with 10 percent of those from households with incomes under \$50,000.

But with a fast-growing population that remains largely de-pendent on cars, the poll shows that throughout the region, plenty of highway headaches remain.

George Katsotis knows where and when to find them. His commute from Rockville to Dupont Circle is 30 minutes at sunrise and more than double that if he leaves at 8 a.m.

"New York Avenue coming out of D.C. is a parking lot all the way to 295 between 4 and 6 o'clock," said Katsotis, 26, a salesman who spends much of his day behind the wheel.

"Now, 270, if it's already 3:30, don't even bother with it until 7. I was out at Tysons Corner the other day, and it was so bad that I just went to Starbucks and worked on my laptop." ASHLEY HALSEY III AND JENNIFER AGIESTA (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Metro Driver Is Fired After Assault Charge

Upper Marlboro, Md.

A 55-year-old driver for MetroAccess has been fired after being charged with sexually assaulting a customer. Jose Del Castillo was arrested last week in his Gaithersburg home and taken to Prince George's County to face the charge.

Castillo works for Challenger Transportation, a subcontractor for MV Transportation, which provides the MetroAccess service. (AP)

The Lotteries

Sunday, April 11

District

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a claims location. Drawings that occur after Express' deadline will be published two days later.

The percentage salary increase for D.C.-area teachers in the past 10 years, according to the Washington Examiner. In Montgomery County, Md., teachers top out with the region's highest salaries — more than \$103,000 for the longest-serving teachers with master'slevel degrees. Only in Fairfax County, Va., have inflation-adjusted salaries declined — by about 2 percent to an average of \$64,700. (AP)

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Sports

It's Thrice as Nice for Mickelson

The sentimental pick delivers late to win his third Masters

Golf

Phil Mickelson kept yanking balls into the trees, and even had an unexpected brush with a pollen pod on the green.

When Lefty was done, he had a third green jacket after an incredibly trying year — and a hug from his wife that never felt better.

Already a fan favorite and now the sentimental pick with his wife, Amy, and mother battling breast cancer, Mickelson rolled in a 15-foot birdie putt at the signature 12th hole — the heart of Amen Corner — then managed a stunning shot off the pine straw and around a tree to set up another birdie at the next hole.

Mickelson capped it off in style, rolling in another birdie at the 18th for a 5-under 67 that gave him a three-stroke win over 54-hole leader Lee Westwood.

"Phil, being the champ he is, just hit some great shots down the



Phil Mickelson celebrates after winning the Masters by three strokes on Sunday.

stretch," Westwood said. "He's been through hard times recently. He deserves a break or two."

Hard-charging Anthony Kim finished with a 7-under 65 that sent him to the clubhouse clinging to hope Mickelson would falter, but Lefty wasn't going to throw this lead away. Not after all his family went through — a striking contrast to the story line coming into this year's Masters: the downfall of Tiger Woods after revelations that he had cheated on his wife with numerous mistresses.

Elin Woods never showed at Augusta, but Amy Mickelson was standing behind the green as her husband walked up to finish off the fourth major title of his career.

Woods was among the contenders who faded, struggling with a shaky swing off the tee and never made a serious push for the lead. He finished with a 3-under 69 and 11-under 277, tied with K.J. Choi for fourth. "That's not what I wanted," said Woods, playing for the first time in five months. "I wanted to win this tournament. As the week went along, I kept hitting the ball worse. It was not very good." (AP)

In Brief



Magic center Dwight Howard grabs the Cavaliers' mascot during Sunday's game.

PRO BASKETBALL

Magic Earns Victory Over James-Less Cavaliers

Mickael Pietrus scored all 12 of his points in the fourth quarter and Jameer Nelson hit a big 3-pointer in the closing minutes, leading the Orlando Magic to a 98-92 win Sunday over the Cleveland Cavaliers, who rested LeBron James for a third-straight game in order to keep the star forward fresh for the playoffs. (AP)

BASEBALL

Benard Admits Doping

Former San Francisco Giants outfielder Marvin Benard admitted he used steroids during the team's 2002 World Series season to deal with a nagging knee injury. The 40-year-old Benard acknowledged his steroid use to The Associated Press on Sunday, when he was in the Bay Area for a reunion of the Giants' 2000 National League West champion team. (AP)

Strasburg Notches a Win in His Pro Debut

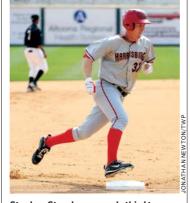
The Nationals

Wherever Stephen Strasburg's formidable right arm eventually takes him, record books — well, databases on the Web — will forever show his first professional win came April 11, 2010, in his minor league debut, at a stadium with a roller coaster looming beyond right field, in this town of 50,000 nestled in the Allegheny Mountains.

Before consistently pitching in the 97-98 mph range over his five innings Sunday, before allowing four runs — one earned — and four hits, before striking out eight batters, Strasburg loped into the cramped visiting clubhouse at Blair County Ballpark. "I'm just another guy on this team," Strasburg said.

Like other players for the Harrisburg Senators, the Washington Nationals' entry in the Double-A Eastern League, Strasburg changed out of his jeans and polo shirt and began putting on his uniform. Like others, he grabbed a doughnut from the pregame spread, which also featured jars of peanut butter and jelly, and a plastic container of cheese balls.

Like others, he relaxed before his start against the Altoona Curve, a Pittsburgh Pirates affiliate, by sitting on the fraternity-style green plaid couch and looking up at the lone, tiny TV. And like Harrisburg's other starting pitchers, Strasburg's other starting pitchers, Strasburg's other starting pitchers,



 $Stephen\,Strasburg\,rounds\,third\,to\\score\,a\,run\,after\,getting\,his\,first\,hit.$

burg took the mound for his first appearance of the season knowing he was on a pitch count, with no chance of more than 85 or 90 tosses. "All of our starters are the same," Harrisburg manager Randy Knorr explained.

Well, not quite the same. Strasburg is the only one whose picture graced the special media credentials issued by the Curve.

With a more-than-capacity-crowd of 7,887 in attendance, Strasburg threw 82 pitches Sunday, helping Harrisburg beat Altoona 6-4. For good measure, he even delivered an RBI double in Harrisburg's three-run fifth inning for his first professional hit. He never got to bat in college and took a postgame dig at his San Diego State coach, Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn, saying: "I'm going to call Gwynn up tomorrow and let him have it." (AP)

Hearsay

"I have a really good friendship with Mark McGwire. I'm proud of him."



— BARRY BONDS,
APPLAUDING
MCGWIRE'S DECISION TO RETURN TO
BASEBALL AFTER
ADMITTING TO
USING STEROIDS.

Sports

Caps Close With a Loss

Ovechkin falls short in his quest to win the points title again

The Capitals

In a last-day-of-the-season game that had no effect on the standings, Alex Ovechkin and his teammates tried their best to win the two-time reigning MVP some more individual hardware.

The result was a big zero, as in neither a goal nor an assist for Ovechkin in a 4-3 shootout loss to the Boston Bruins. The game ended his chase for the overall scoring title - Vancouver's Henrik Sedin gets the honor — although Ovechkin still had a chance to share the goalscoring crown pending the outcome of Sunday's other games.

"Sometimes you win; sometimes you lose, so congrats to Sedin," Ovechkin said.

Ovechkin ends the season with 50 goals, quite a feat considering he missed 10 games due to injuries and suspensions. He also piled up 109 points to finish three behind Sedin for the Art Ross Trophy.

"It doesn't take away from the year he had," coach Bruce Bou-



Capitals left winger Jason Chimera is caught in a fracas near the Bruins' net Sunday.

Up Next...

If the Washington Capitals are to win their first Stanley Cup, they'll first have to beat one of the NHL's most storied teams: the Montreal Canadiens. The Caps — who long ago clinched the No. 1 seed in the East drew the Habs after the Philadelphia Flyers defeated the New York Rangers in a shootout on Sunday. The Flyers grabbed the No. 7 seed, moving Montreal down to the No. 8 seed. It will be the first time that the two teams have ever met in the NHL playoffs. (EXPRESS)

dreau said. "He didn't get any points today. Sometimes you just can't dig it up to do it. Boston looked to me like their whole concern was not to let Alex score. So we'll get back to normal. I'm glad the whole race thing is over."

Two Capitals did achieve personal benchmarks. Alexander Semin reached the 40-goal mark for the first time and also notched his 300th career point. Also, defenseman Jeff Schultz became the first Capitals player to lead the league in plus-minus rating. He was plus-2 Sunday, putting him at plus-50 for the year. (AP)

TV Lineup

NATIONALS (3 P.M., MASN) The

Nats won't have any reason to complain this time when all the fans cheer for the Phillies, who play their first game in Philly.

ORIOLES (7 P.M., MASN2) The O's take on the Tampa Bay Rays.

WIZARDS (7:30 P.M., CSN) The Wiz begin the last week of the season against the Knicks.

BASEBALL (2:10 P.M., WGN; 4 P.M., ESPN) The Chicago Cubs host the Milwaukee Brewers, and the Boston Red Sox visit the Minnesota Twins.

BASKETBALL (9 P.M., VERSUS) Reno plays Rio Grande Valley in the first round of the NBA's D-League playoffs.

Roddick Returning to Legg Mason

Tennis

Top-ranked American Andy Roddick will return to Washington this summer to compete in the Legg Mason Tennis Classic, an event he has won three times in his career.

Roddick's participation is expected to be announced Monday. It represents a coup for the late-summer, hard-court tournament, which raised its profile considerably last season in being designated one of the ATP World Tour 500 events and, in the process, doubling its prize money to \$1.4 million and nearly tripling the number of ranking points awarded players.

Roddick, 27, a fan favorite in

Washington, is off to an impressive start this year.

Against a world-class field, he reached the finals at Indian Wells,



Calif., last month. Two weeks later he won the title in Key Biscayne, Fla., brandishing an attacking, serve-and-volley game to oust Rafael Nadal in

a three-set semifinal and needing just two sets to defeat Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic in the final. Roddick dropped his serve just twice en route to the title. LIZ CLARKE (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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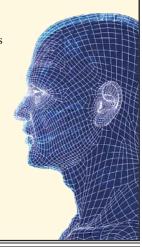
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Sports

Willingham, Nationals Slam the Mets

Washington moves to .500 after replay confirms home run

The Nationals

Josh Willingham wound up with a grand slam off Johan Santana after a







first inning capped by an instant replay review, and the Washington Nationals went on to beat the New York Mets

wild sequence in the

5-2 on Sunday.

Willingham's bases-loaded drive hit the wall in left-center and was



Josh Willingham is called out at home before replay showed his hit was a grand slam.

initially ruled in play. He tried to stretch his triple when the ball got away from catcher Rod Barajas and was tagged out, leaving both players sprawled across home plate. After checking the replay, the umpires ruled a home run.

Willingham followed his fifth career grand slam with an RBI double in the third inning, helping the Nationals beat Santana (1-1) for the first time since June 9, 2007.

Livan Hernandez (1-0) pitched a gem, scattering five hits and three walks over seven innings. Matt Capps worked a perfect ninth inning for his third save, allowing the Nats (3-3) to reach .500 for the first time since April 5, 2008. (AP)

MLB SCOREBOARD

Reds 3, Cubs 1

Nationals 5. Mets 2

Marlins 6, Dodgers 5

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 2

Tigers 9, Indians 8

White Sox 5. Twins 4

Phillies 2, Astros 1

Yankees 7, Rays 3

Red Sox 8, Royals 6

Rangers 9, Mariners 2

Rockies 4, Padres 2

A's 9, Angels 4

Late game results: washingtonpost.com

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Pay a Conference a Call

Industry gatherings are the perfect place to make connections and boost your skills

Networking

If you want to learn about the future of your industry, find a job, or just make yourself look like a rock star at your company, there's only one way to go: Attend a professional conference.

Most industries have some sort of annual gathering that industry pros attend to learn and network for a few days. Marketers attend conferences such as Ad:tech; librarians hit up the American Library Association's annual shindig; lawyers have dozens of events worldwide to choose from. And employed and unemployed alike can score key connections, learn new skills and even land a job through one of these events. But look sharp — it's easy to get overwhelmed and feel like you've wasted loads of money unless you go in with a plan.

With many professional conferences costing hundreds of dollars a day, you want to make sure you're not wasting your hard-earned cash. And that's even before you add in transportation and hotel **CONTINUED ON E2**



Melody Woodward, right, of Federal Schedules meets with Edwin Busch, center, and Marcy Dausch at the annual FOSE conference that was held in D.C. on March 25.

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Conference In

Continued from page E1

you're footing your own bill, there are ways to lessen the pain, says Melissa Fireman, founder of Washington Career Services.

Many conferences give volunteers free registration badges, for example, and "volunteering at the sign-in table of the event means you get to meet everyone," Fireman advises.

Where shouldn't you scrimp? On the hotel, experts say. Booking in the "official" hotel may cost more up-front, but if you have to hop in a cab every time you want to drop some swag off in your room, costs will soon add up, says blogger Jeremy Schoemaker, an entrepreneur, marketer and veteran conference-goer (who blogs

at Shoemoney.com). Splitting the cost of a room with a colleague is a much better choice.

Once you've arrived, the best way to make the connections you need is methodically, conference-goers agree. Start with a plan, Fireman suggests. Research conference attendees and exhibitors ahead of time by nabbing a copy of the program or exhibitor directory, which is often mailed to registrants. This goes for both job seekers and pros who are representing their companies.

Last month, for the Federal Office Systems Exposition (FOSE) 2010 conference, Melody Woodward, an executive account manager at Federal Schedules, went to meet with old clients and find new ones. FOSE is the longestrunning government tech event in



Experts suggest researching attendees and exhibitors, and creating an efficient plan of action before you arrive at a conference.

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the nation, so it's a great place to drum up business. "When I leave my office," she says, "anybody is a potential new client. We always are open for new business."

Woodward's best prep tip is to talk to everyone, even competitors. While you might consider them your competition, they might also be your best friend. And never run out of business cards: Even an informational panel could turn into an informal networking session.

Donna Chatman Owens was searching for a new job at FOSE after being laid off from Lockheed Martin. "I study the companies, identify the ones I want to see and target the ones I really want to see first, because there are a lot," she says, before approaching a job fair booth. "I've heard a lot about you," she tells the booth staffer, who is



 $FOSE, or the Federal \ Of fice \ Systems \ Exposition, holds the title \ as the country's \ longest-running \ government \ tech \ event.$

Targeting, and prior research is important at a conference, where the atmosphere can be pushy.

obviously flattered.

Targeting, and prior research, is especially important at a conference, where the atmosphere can be pushy, says Jim Dooley, the senior director of administration and HR for Kestrel Enterprises, a D.C.-based IT services firm. Many of the jobs he hires for require specialized skills or security clearances, but, he says, "people will insist on giving their resume to you any

Continued on page E4



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way," which doesn't leave him with a positive impression. He suggests "being aggressive without being overbearing," and learning when "we don't have any openings for you" really means just that.

Finally, don't ignore smaller companies in favor of the ones everybody's heard of. You're likely to make stronger connections, and perhaps more fruitful business contacts.

"As a small business, we each wear a lot of hats," explains Dusty Codd, senior director of Computer Technologies Consultants, who was helping to staff his company's booth at the FOSE job fair. "We have the business decision-making folks here, rather than just a designated career fair person. We know what our needs are," he says, so CTC can make decisions about



If you're looking for free registration, ask whether the conference needs volunteers.

"It sounds strange, but ... I've learned that it's impossible to network when your feet hurt."

— **DIANA DIBBLE KURCFELD,** ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER FOOTWEAR.

job seekers on the spot.

However, do temper your expectations. Contracts aren't signed overnight, and jobs don't appear out of nowhere. Fireman, the career counselor, agrees: "It could happen that you're going to be invited for an interview, but I don't necessarily feel that people get job offers directly from conferences." Codd, too, says his

company is looking for more of a relationship with potential hires, not a "short, quick fix" for talent shortages.

Finally, don't underestimate the physical strain of being on your feet instead of perched in an ergonomic office chair. After a couple days of wandering exhibit halls and shaking hands with hundreds of people, you'll be glad you wore comfortable shoes, says Diana Dibble Kurcfeld, president of Design to Delivery in Bethesda, a government procurement consulting firm. She was attending to network and find new technologies to use at her company. "It sounds strange, but after 22 years of going to trade shows," she says, "I've learned that it's impossible to network when your feet hurt." RACHEL KAUFMAN



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 $Michael \, Merino \, is \, the \, founder \, of \, MCM films, \, an \, independent \, film \, company \, specializing \, in \, horror \, movies \, and \, training \, videos.$

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The Movie Man

- → NAME: Michael Merino
- → EDUCATION: Bachelor's in arts and liberal studies from Northern Arizona University.
- → SALARY: Merino's films sell for \$50,000 to \$500,000, and he recoups anywhere from 20 to 90 percent.
- → JOB: Founder of MCMfilms, an independent film company that specializes in horror movies, television programming and training videos. MCM is currently producing "Our Last Supper," a film about five lifelong friends gathering for dinner, unaware that it might be their last, and "Houseboat," a reality show that sets six bikini-clad divas to sail for as long as they can stand each other. His 2008 horror film "502," in which a writer penning a book about a recently captured serial killer decides to stay in the killer's vacant apartment for inspiration, can be purchased at Amazon.com and will be available to rent by this summer. → WHAT HE DOES: "I have my

thumbs in every pie," says Merino, who writes, produces and directs all of his films. How does he come up with a solid idea for a good horror flick? "I get a lot of ideas from

the newspaper," he says. "It's amazing the crazy things you read about." (His upcoming film "Dismal Creek," for example, was inspired by a story in The Washington Post about killings in the Appalachian Mountains.) Then he hires a trusted crew, oversees casting and starts shooting. "It's kind of like herding cats," he says. The entire process lasts anywhere from 18 months to three years. After shooting, it's time to sell the project to distributors, which means hours of networking and general schmoozing. "You're a salesman," Merino says." You spend a lot of time drinking coffee and having lunch with people, and I don't even drink coffee."

→ WOULD YOU WANT THIS JOB?

To successfully sell movies, "you have to like talking to people and have patience," he says. You also need a thick skin. "We send our films into festivals and get turned down by 90 percent of them," says Merino. "It takes time and money." With those hurdles aside, the job is mainly just a way to put your imagination onscreen, which can be a blast: "Horror films are the most fun thing to film because it's ridiculous. I'm saying, 'OK, spill the blood!' and a half-naked girl runs by with a guy with a hatchet chasing her."

→ HOW HE GOT THIS JOB: After a stint in Los Angeles trying to

break into acting, Merino "realized I like to tell people what to do rather than being told." He came back to his native D.C., where a friend offered him a job producing public service announcements for Montgomery Community television. "I fell in love with it right away," he says. He bought a couple books and borrowed camera equipment on the weekends to film his first movie. "It was called 'The Deal," Merino says. "Basically, it was a really bad 'Reservoir Dogs' rip-off." He immersed himself in filmmaking classes, including the International Film Workshops in Rockport, Maine, and at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. Then he volunteered his time on film sets all over the country. After learning the tricks of the trade, Merino founded MCMfilms in 1999.

→ HOW YOU CAN GET THIS JOB:

"Contact me and work in production!" Merino says. Help out (initially for free) on film sets by being an assistant — which means anything from camera work to coffee runs — while observing how moviemaking really happens. "Learn to become a gopher," Merino says. "You always hear about these overnight sensations, when the real truth is that these people have been at it for five or 10 years. ... It's about realizing that if you want to do this, it takes time."

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Lisa Blaker gets ready to leave for work as her son Noah, 13, pulls the ears of his youngest brother, Isaac, 9. Blaker, of Gaithersburg, Md., went back to work in 2008 after being home with her children for many years.

Moms to the Financial Rescue

Across the region, women are rejoining the workforce to help make ends meet

Sacrifice

At the start of the Great Recession, Lisa Blaker was a stay-at-home mom. Less than a year later, she wasn't. Instead, she became one of hundreds of thousands of women across the country who joined the workforce — or added hours, or became a sole breadwinner — amid the nation's most severe economic downturn in generations.

The mothers and wives of this recession have bought groceries, paid mortgages and kept away debt collectors — stepping in as financial necessity has increasingly altered the eternal struggle between work and home.

Blaker went back to her career in information systems after eight years at home in Gaithersburg, Md. In Silver Spring, musician Alison Crockett continues to work three part-time jobs, even though she had hoped to be with her infant daughter. In Takoma Park, Pamela Fields ratcheted up from part-time to fulltime hours, forgoing afternoons with her school-age children.

Recent census data and other figures reflect this reordering of family life: As the recession set in, fewer married women stayed home to raise their children. Wives with jobs worked more. More wives were sole wage-earners. These changes came as men took a bigger hit in the employment market, experiencing three-quarters of all job losses in a gender gap that has led some observers to dub this downturn a "mancession."

"Families are reacting to the reality of economic hardship," said Kristin Smith, a University of New Hampshire family demographer who wrote a paper on the topic. In 2008, the first year of the recession, employed wives contrib-



Lisa Blaker and her husband, Rob, feel more secure with two incomes coming in.

uted 45 percent of household earnings, the high point of the decade, Smith found.

In Gaithersburg, Blaker, 49, had been a stay-at-home mom since her three sons were young, while her husband did well in commercial real estate. But in 2008, with his industry less lucrative, he floated the idea of her returning to her field. One day she came home with a job interview, and their lives changed.

"It wasn't really that we needed the money that bad, but it's a lot more comforting to know there's a second income," said Rob Blaker, 48.

Lisa Blaker's job now provides 30 percent of the family's income, while Rob Blaker is contributing more on the home front: helping to get their sons to school, to orthodontist appointments and sports practices. "It's like a three-ring circus at all times," Rob Blaker said of juggling two work sched-

Continued on page E8

Working Moms

Continued from page E7

ules and busy children ages 9, 12 and 13. But, he added, "no question, it's a good thing."

The recession has affected families in different ways.

Crockett, who recently gave birth to her second child, intended to scale back on her hours as a teacher and musician to be with her baby. But her husband's efforts to land a full-time music teaching job did not pan out, so she stayed put. The family needed her income, and she wondered: "In this reces-

sion, if I let any of them go, could I get them back?"

The family is making ends meet, but Crockett added, "I don't get a chance to do as much of the handson parenting with a newborn that I would like to do — and that stuff is very important to me, as I think it would be to any mother."

The gender gap shows up in the unemployment rate, which is 10 percent for men and 7.9 percent for women. Experts say maledominated industries such as construction and manufacturing have been severely affected by the recession, but several fields dom-



Rob Blakers says life is "like a three-ring circus," with three kids and working parents.

inated by women, such as health care and education, have actually added jobs.

Shoshana Magazine, 41, had been a stay-at-home mom for 14 years when she and her husband received bad news about his job as a construction project manager. They both scrambled to get work.

Magazine took a job as a legal assistant in a firm owned by her in-laws, even though her doctoral degree is in human resources. After four months, her husband found a new position in his field, but it paid less than his old job. She kept working.



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Magazine became part of the decline in the ranks of stay-at-home moms, whose numbers have fallen from 5.3 million in 2007 to 5.1 million in 2009, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. There was no statistically significant difference in the number of stay-at-home dads.

Although Magazine is glad she has a job, she says she misses the extra time she had with her children, ages 2, 7 and 14. Now the family's evenings are jammed with day-care pickup, homework, dinner and bedtime, though she knows this is nothing new for many families.

The upside: Her older children are more independent and pitch in with chores. And maybe they will benefit from seeing a family pull together in hard times, she said.

"I have really mixed feelings



Lisa Blaker's husband, Rob Blaker, is in commercial real estate. Her paychecks now supply 30 percent of the family's income.

about the whole thing," she said. "But right now, I don't have a choice."

Nationally, Kuae Kelch Mattox, 44, hears an increasing number of stories about the economy's toll on stay-at-home moms, who her organization, Mocha Moms, brings together in chapters nationwide. In her own case, she said, her husband owns a small business that has been affected by the economy, so "we're feeling the squeeze," which has her looking for a job in journalism after 10 years at home. "I have to do what I can on my end to pitch in more," she said.

Census data show that the portion of married, working couples with children younger than 18 declined from 63 percent in 2007 to 59 percent in 2009. Those with

Continued on page E10

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Working Moms

Continued from page E9

only a wife employed edged up from 5 percent in 2007 to 7 percent in 2009.

For Fields, 51, change has meant trade-offs.

When her husband lost his position as a lawyer at a small communications law firm, she immediately asked for full-time hours. Still, "we lost more than half of our income," she said. And for her, it was hard to

give up her after-school time with her children.

Still, Fields appreciates "the silver linings," she said, which include her husband's increased presence at home; there are more family dinners together, and they've decided to adopt a dog.

Tough times can bring families together — or severely stress them, experts say. Scores of studies have shown that unemployment and economic instability can lead to feelings of depression and undermine

marital satisfaction, said Pamela Smock, a sociologist at the University of Michigan.

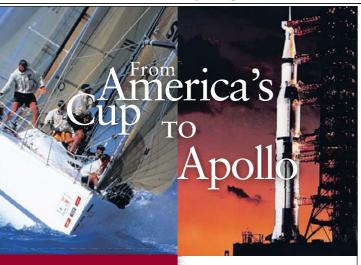
In the District, Stephanie Johnson Hunt, 33, said economic turmoil played a role in her marital problems. An engineer who stayed home when her children were born and then started a small business, Hunt and her husband clashed about whether she should return to a job in her field as the recession set in. In fall 2008, she began looking for a full-time position but ulti-

mately separated from her husband and now raises her two children, ages 4 and 7, on her own.

Sometimes rejoining the working world is not easy. Work has been hard to replace in this downturn, with recent figures showing that 41 percent of job-seekers have been unemployed for at least six months.

Doda Johnson, 43, a mother of two in Rockville, has been looking for a job since April, when she and her family returned from her husband's job assignment overseas. "With the economy right now," she said, "I feel like I have to go back to work." But with mostly volunteer work and consultant positions on her résumé, she has had little luck in the nonprofit sector. "I feel kind of hopeless at this point," she said.

Johnson finally took a job caring for a neighbor's child. It generates a small income, which helps but "is not what I aspired for," she said. "I have a master's degree, and I'm baby-sitting." DONNA ST. GEORGE



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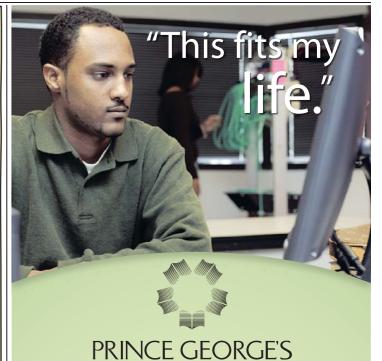
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A Little Exposure Can Pay Off

Nude modeling can be a liberating way to support the arts and make some cash

Odd Jobs

Few subjects in history have inspired as much art as the nude human form, and those willing to bare it all as modern-day muses can build themselves a healthy side-business.

For those considering taking a skinny-dip into this job pool, the market is more welcoming than it may seem: "People have a misconception that figure models have to be a 10 on the good-looking scale," says David R. Quammen, founder of the D.C.-area Figure Models Guild (Figuremodelsguild.org). "That's absolutely ridiculous. Artists need to have a broad section of humanity to work from."

Quammen came to figure modeling at age 60, nearly a decade ago. Though artists sometimes need a specific body type, Quammen says that models who are punctual, respectful of the artistic process, creative with poses and able to hold them with the resolve of a statue will always be in demand.

He launched the group in 2002 "to professionalize the model pool" and the result has been mutually beneficial: Models join for free after a few hours of instruction and are given a book of sample poses, a list of hiring contacts for the colleges, classes and art groups that fuel demand, and are added to a registry of models. In turn, some artists and model coordinators look to hire Guild members because there's at least a minimum level of training and accountability.

Membership now numbers around 125 people, including lawyers, architects, dancers and craftspeople.

In the D.C. area, nude models typically earn \$14 to \$20 per hour — not bad at all considering the



To inspire artists, nude models should have a repertoire of good poses from which to draw. And artists prefer that every feature, including the eyes, be unflinching.

"People have a misconception that figure models have to be a 10 on the good-looking scale."

dress is, ahem, casual. And aspiring models presumably have had decades of practice sitting, standing and making gestures. How hard could it be?

At least that was the thought going through Jason Cheney's mind in 2008 when he called an artist to express his interest. At his first session, after fumbling nervously to shed his robe — which seemed twisted "into some sort of sailor's knot" — and three hours of posing, Cheney recalls his muscles ached as if he'd "spent the whole day trying to move somebody into a new house."

"It's not a walk in the park,"



 ${\bf Jason\,Cheney\,poses\,for\,a\,drawing\,class\,at\,the\,Corcoran\,College\,of\,Art\,and\,Design.}$

says Cheney, 34, who also is a policy researcher and analyst. "It's actual work."

Typically a session might begin with a series of short poses, lasting perhaps 30 seconds to a few minutes, and then switch to longer ones that could last 10 or 20

minutes, or even a single pose held for an hour or more, with periodic breaks.

Models should have a repertoire of good poses from which to draw; without them, they can be as inspiring as "a stack of meat," says Quammen. Longer poses

also have to be weighed with sustainability in mind, since a position that feels peachy after five minutes might feel very different 10 minutes later, when limbs are going numb. And ideally every feature, including the eyes, should be unflinching.

For a test-run, Cheney suggests: "Next time you sit down at your desk, hold that pose. Hold it for a couple minutes."

And while it's a no-brainer that models should be completely at peace with their bodies — "people are going to get a very good look at you," says Cheney — they also need a touch of humility. Even if art does imitate life, there's plenty of room for interpretation.

For Cheney, it's an exhilaration to be part of the process and to see the strokes come together. For others, he says, seeing an outside reflection of themselves can offer "a moment of truth."



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gettingahead

Downhill Is Up

Meredith Peace gave her career a real lift by being trained to be a ski instructor

Side Jobs

Many of us think of skiing only in relation to Lindsay Vonn or Bode Miller. Some of us think of skiing only in winter. And then there's Meredith Peace. She's such a fan that she got herself a second job as a ski instructor — after never even trying the sport until her 40s.

By day, Peace is a therapist at the Montgomery County Crisis Center in Rockville. She does psychiatric evaluations there and on the road and handles after-hours referrals, emergency petitions and first-responder support at trauma scenes. "Something different at all hours," she says.

Years ago, in her work with atrisk youth, she and a colleague led an outing to Pennsylvania's Whitetail Resort. "To help the kids with their ski lesson, I had to learn along with them," she says. "We had a lot of laughs." In other words, it was more about building trust than becoming proficient.

To her surprise, Peace was hooked. Despite lift costs and long drives, she headed to various slopes for group lessons and practice with friends. "The first year, I was flat on my face most of the time," she says wryly. Still working with kids on weekday trips, it was five years until she felt her skills were "solid intermediate."

Late in 2000, an employee at Liberty Mountain Resort — 14 miles north of Thurmont, Md. — said, "You're up here so often teaching, why not make it official?" Most Liberty, Whitetail and Ski Roundtop instructors are part-timers who have trained in everything from turns, stops and safety to work-



Meredith Peace retains her job as a therapist but teaches skiing on weekends.

ing patiently with newbies. Without knowing they start at minimum wage and earn free skiing at all three resorts — a major perk for serious skiers — Peace said yes so she'd be more help to the kids in her care.

Liberty alone has 220 ski instructors, says mountain services director Steve Martin. In November, new hires pay \$50 and spend a day indoors reviewing the curriculum and equipment. Weeks later, they're assessed and spend two days practicing on varied terrain. "We view the on-snow as an interview. People skills are of great importance," Martin says.

Having won the right to wear the resorts' "Ski School" jack

et, Peace started teaching adults and kids, serious ski virgins and one-offs. The resorts encourage their instructors to get certified by the Professional Ski Instructors of America (303-987-9390; Thesnowpros.org) — "it's important to be connected to a professional association," says Martin, "and it helps them be better instructors and helps us provide a better product." In 2001, Peace earned PSIA certification in alpine skiing.

As we know from the Olympics, though, no level of skill prevents mishaps. Peace once got tangled with other skiers, wrenched her knee and was out for a season. She's been run over by others and wiped out on her own. Though it's not yet an industry standard, Peace wears a helmet and so do her latest students, who come to her through Blue Ridge Adaptive Snow Sports.

The therapist has come full circle, volunteering to teach ski-

The therapist has come full circle. volunteering to teach skiiers with physical or mental impairments.

ers with various physical or mental impairments. "I was interested to see how they teach blind skiers and amputees and all disabilities," Peace says. The nonprofit asked her to get involved, and now certified in adaptive skiing she made it her winter weekends' focus starting in 2004.

Skiing is her weekend focus most of the year, in fact. Instructors tend to know one another well, so they go to dinner, carpool, take ski trips across the country and throw summer barbecues. Peace has made new friends, become skilled at a tough sport and "turned others on to the ski bug," as she puts it.

Building others' confidence has spilled over to her day job, too. "I can show that no matter what age you are, you can pursue a dream or goal," she says.

And then there's this perk: better health. "I don't get sick like I used to," Peace says. Fresh air and exercise are part of that, as are less TV and shopping. And psychologically, "I'm much happier contributing." ELLEN RYAN

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System Overload

A former Google exec teaches his readers to wade through a technology pileup

A&Q

GETTING ORGANIZED GO DGLE ERA

"Complicated" is a

good word to describe our work and personal lives these days. Sure, technology has certainly made things

easier in many ways, but it also means we're constantly bombarded by phone calls; e-mails; Facebook and Twitter updates; blog postings; texts and all kinds of other communications.

Just how the heck are we supposed to handle it all? One of the guys who helped get us to this point in the first place has some advice. Former Google CIO Douglas C. Merrill shares his favorite tips and techniques in his new book "Getting Organized in the Google Era" (\$23, Broadway Business), written with James A. Martin. We spoke with Merrill, who is currently working on a classified new venture, about how to avoid information overload.

Is it harder than ever before to be organized?

It clearly is. If you look at our society now, we're working harder and drowning in more information than ever before. Five percent of all U.S. employees are online at 2 in the morning. We're working a lot harder.

What role do what you call outdated societal structures play in all of this?

Every societal structure constrains our behavior in one way or another. The reason the 9-to-5 workday was created was to allow factory workers to show up on time

for the assembly line. I don't work in a factory, you don't, but most of the world still runs on a 9-to-5 schedule. Which means, at 8:30, there's horrible traffic everywhere. Similarly, summer vacation from school — that's all because the original school structure was set up to help people harvest crops. These are examples of structures that are fundamentally maladapted to our lives today.

So, what can we do about it?

One person can't change the school calendar. But you can, however, negotiate with your boss about the 9-to-5 schedule. I check e-mail from 10 to midnight every night because that works into my life. As a result, I should be able to take time off during day to see [my child's] soccer game or spend more time with my wife. There are certainly times during the day when my workload drops a little.

Why can't our brains retain and process all the information that comes at them?

Our brains are limited. Humans are amazing; the amount of things our brain can do is just unreal. But on the other hand, we can only keep between seven, plus or minus two, items in our short-term memory at any time.

Why can multitasking be problematic?

It's a terrible thing to be doing because, we stink at it. We all think we're good at it, but we all can really only work on one thing at a time. Every time you move from the first task to a second task, you have to do what's called context shifting. And every time you do that, it increases the likelihood that you're going to forget something.

What are a few of your favorite digital tools and technologies to help with organization?

Google Docs (Docs.google.com) is pretty important, the way it keeps information online in a searchable archive. Gmail (Mail.google.com) is really important. Instead of having to file your e-mails, you can simply search across them, and you can do a lot of other things to help your e-mail stores become more useful. There are a few communications tools that are useful. I use Brizzly (Brizzly.com), because my friends and I are on multiple social networks at once. It pulls them all together for me in one place. I also use Adium (Adium. im), which logs me onto all the instant messaging networks I'm on at one time. BETH LUBERECKI



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A Virtual World Yields Real Money

Second Life offers entrepreneurs of all stripes a lucrative market to engage

Profits

Dana Moore sells rain. He sells a lot of it, for about a buck per reusable storm.

"I don't know why people love buying rainstorms," he said, watching his product drizzle last week, "but they do seem to like them a lot."

The attraction isn't rain, per se, but Moore's rain, which can deluge swaths of land on command. The rain falls not in Bowie, where he lives with his wife of 37 years, but in the virtual world of Second Life, the Web portal where he also markets snow, clocks, University of Maryland basketball T-shirts,

Duke basketball T-shirts (grudgingly), two-story Tudor-style homes, pinup posters from the 1930s and the sounds of barking dogs.

In the physical world, Moore, 62, writes software for a subsidiary of defense contractor Raytheon. In the virtual world, he is one of thousands of entrepreneurs selling products — for genuine American dollars — that add a remarkably profitable dose of reality to Second Life's fantasy world.

Newbies show up in Second Life without so much as 40 acres and a mule, so their avatars need hair; fancy shoes for a concert or suits for business meetings; a house, and art for the house; and maybe a waterfall for the living room — virtual goods that cost real money. Last year, as the physical economy withered, Second Life's economy blossomed, with user-to-user transactions topping \$567 million



Dana Moore and his wife check out their Second Life avatars at home in Bowie, Md.

in actual U.S. currency, a 65 percent jump over 2008. About 770,000 unique users made repeat visits to Second Life in December, and the users, known as residents, cashed out \$55 million of their Second Life earnings last year, transferring that money to PayPal accounts.

The big purchases in Second Life are land and the mate-

"The barriers are really, really low for an enterprise to get started in Second Life."

— TOM BOELLSTROFF, AN ANTHROPOLO-GIST WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT IRVINE, NOTES HOW FEW PHYSICAL DEMANDS THE VIRTUAL MARKET HAS

rial goods residents put on that land. It isn't real land, obviously, but digital space that looks like land. Users control the intellectual property rights to whatever they build, giving them economic incentive to create things. And create they do.

"The barriers to entry are really, really low for an enterprise to get started in Second Life," said Tom Boellstorff, an anthropologist

Continued on page E16

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Virtual, Reality

Continued from page E15

with the University of California at Irvine who studies virtual worlds, in an interview at one of his Second Life residences — a lovely modern space with a water view. "You don't need a factory. You don't have a lot of expenses."

Second Life's economy looks remarkably like that of the physical world. At one end, where most users are, small-business owners such as Moore keep their physical-world day jobs but make a few hundred dollars a year selling niche products such as rain and T-shirts. But as Second World has grown, some users have built much bigger, full-time businesses: Stiletto Moody sells thousands of high-end shoes for about \$8 a pair, and Curious Kitties is a Japanese maker of somewhat risqué clothing.

More than 50 businesses in the virtual world made more than \$100,000 each last year.

Second Life's owner, Linden Lab, makes money by selling land plots and islands. An island runs about \$1,000, a high barrier of entry for most Second Life users. But to open a strip mall, dance club or office tower, or to build a home, avatars need land. Some Second Life users have taken on Donald Trump-like personas, buying land from Second Life and then leasing plots to small-business owners or would-be homeowners.

As in physical reality, these land barons are few in number but generate a big chunk of the world's gross domestic product. The top 25 Second Life earners are mostly land barons, making a combined \$12 million.

"The Second Life economy really starts with the idea that people want to socialize," said Robert

More than 50 businesses in the virtual world made more than \$100,000 each last year.

Bloomfield, a Cornell University management professor who hosts a popular financial talk show in Second Life called Metanomics. "People need a place to do that. So the foundation of the economy is land." Sound familiar?

Ray Williams, who lives near Richmond, Va., is a Second Life land baron. In 2006, on his lunch break as a computer technician at Circuit City, Williams stumbled on a CNN.com news item about an avatar named Anshe Chung, Second Life's first physical-world millionaire. Chung, whose real name is Ailin Graef, is a former schoolteacher who became known as the Rockefeller of Second Life by buying and selling land. That night, Williams logged onto Second Life for the first time. Two and a half years ago, after he was laid off by Circuit City, Williams made Sec-

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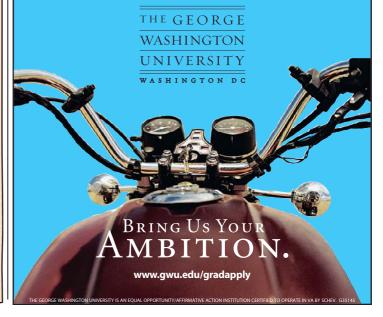
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ond Life his full-time career.

The other day, standing on the beach of a private island he shares with his real-world girlfriend, Williams - through his avatar, named Ray Burdevna told a story that sounded very much like Trump's: He started off small, buying land plots here and there. He saved enough money to buy his first island. Then he started leasing out spaces. That led to more island purchases, and now he owns 100 islands. Each of his holdings generates about \$85 a week in rent. He pays for his health insurance and runs his business



Dana Moore's avatar, Electric Sheep Expedition and his wife's avatar, Dana Lambeau.

from a room in his Chesterfield, Va., apartment.

Nobody in Second Life pays for anything with actual currency. They pay in Linden dollars, which, like real-world currency, is traded on an exchange. Linden Lab, like the Federal Reserve, controls the exchange and money supply to maintain a steady value for Linden dollars. That value has historically hovered around 250 Linden dollars for every U.S. dollar.

People entering virtual worlds for the first time are often surprised to learn that virtual dollars have actual value. They should not be surprised, economists say, because whether the world is physical or electronic, all value is virtual.

"I think it's fair to say that the car I am in or the clothes people wear, a good chunk of their value is virtual," said Ed Castronova, an Indiana University economist who studies and creates virtual worlds. "A coat is not entirely about keeping the cold off - there's a look, a signal, and that's virtual. There's always been this virtual part of the economy, but by stripping out the physical part, you go, 'Oh, my gosh, a lot of our motivations are intangible." MICHAEL S. ROSENWALD

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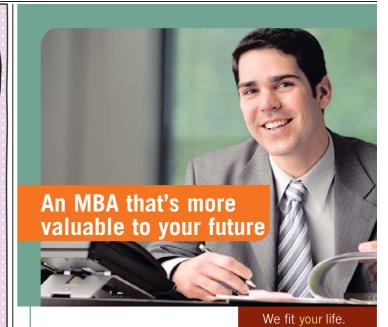
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Ryan Fochler was unable to get a loan from a bank to expand his already thriving business. Then he looked into microlending.

Less Loan Is More

Microlending got its start abroad but now is giving businesses here a needed boost

Ryan Fochler's life changed six years ago when he left his job in the computer industry to buy an Arlington County-based dog-walking business with \$50,000 in personal savings and a home-equity line of credit. The firm grew quickly, with revenue more than doubling each year. By 2008, Fochler was ready to expand the business into a full-fledged pet day-care service called Dog Paws 'n Cat Claws.

The only problem was money. Fochler wanted to convert an old drugstore into a 7,000-squarefoot paradise for pets, complete with retail products and dog training. But those plans collided with the most severe financial crisis in a generation, and credit froze up. At one point, Fochler said, his bank refused to release the money need-



Ryan Fochler put his \$10,000 loan into his business. Dog Paws 'n Cat Claws.

ed to complete the construction.

"We just kind of hit it at completely the wrong time," he said. But, he added, for entrepreneurs, "failing is not an option."

To help plug the gap, Fochler turned to the Latino Economic Development Corp.'s nascent microlending program, part of a growing network of financial institutions that specialize in small loans to mom-and-pop operations that are often below banks' radar. The average size of the LEDC's loans is \$10,000 at a 10 percent interest rate, said Lending Director Rob Vickers. Many banks will not consider loans less than \$200,000, he said.

Microlending first became popular as a form of foreign investment in poor, emerging markets. Before joining the LEDC a few years ago, Vickers was a microlending specialist in Latin America for the World Bank, including financing projects in Nicaragua to help rural villagers connect to electrical grids. The trend has been slower to take off in the United States, especially because many consumers have access to credit cards and because lending requirements were lax.

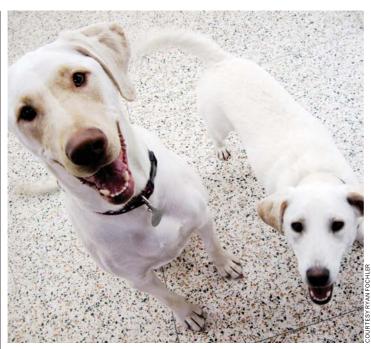
But tightened underwriting standards have pushed many consumers out of the traditional banking system and sent them hunting for alternatives.

"We're seeing a lot of demand from formerly banked businesses that are now looking to us to meet their needs," said Mark Pinsky, chief executive of Opportunity Finance.

In addition, the Internet has created a niche of microlending that allows businesses to appeal to everyday consumers for capital through peer-to-peer lending. Renaud Laplanche, chief executive of the Lending Club, said small businesses account for about 10 percent of loans made on his peer-lending site, with the average amount about \$18,000. Laplanche said that demand has increased among small businesses but that individuals have also grown more cautious about whom they lend money to.

"It's not like if you can't get any loan from a bank, you can get it from Lending Club," he said. "The individual lenders are also savvy investors."

But Fochler said that even the staff members at the LEDC were



Fochler's microloan allowed his business to grow without putting him in huge debt.

"We're seeing ...
demand from
formerly banked
businesses that
are looking to us to
meet their needs."

surprised that he could not qualify for a bank loan when he approached them two years ago. He reported record sales each year, with growth rates averaging 170 percent. The pet day care is profitable. Fochler employs 25 people and recently added dog training to his services. But he said that after the financial crisis, banks not only wanted to see profitability, but also matching assets.

The LEDC requires all applica-

tions to go through credit counseling to be approved and scrutinizes companies' balance sheets. And it helps borrowers separate personal expenses from business ones, typically a tangled web for small-business owners.

"We are obsessed with making good loans," Vickers said.

Still, the tough economy has taken a toll on LEDC loan holders. The repayment rate fell from 100 percent in fiscal 2007 to 92 percent in 2009, Vickers said.

Vickers said that he expects the repayment rate to improve this year as the economy recovers and that the LEDC hopes to expand its program over time.

"We think growth is very important," he said. "There is unmet demand out there right now."
YLAN Q. MUI (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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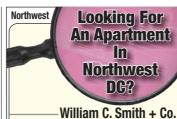
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Serial MarrierElizabeth Taylor says she's engaged for the ninth time **31**

Booze Clues

Sip the Presses

Perhaps the person in the neon vest who gave you this newspaper didn't tell you that Express is part of The Washington Post Company. Anyway, it is, so April 12—the day the Pulitzer Prizes are announced—is of special



significance. Unfortunately, at press time we had no idea whether The Post won any. Assuming it did, and that you bear a deep and abiding loyalty to D.C.'s paper of record, you'll need a journal-

ism-themed bar to celebrate.

The appropriately named The Source (555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW), located in the Newseum (double points!), offers a lounge menu weekdays between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. that includes cocktails and gourmet bar food; \$20.10 gets you any three items. It's kind of expensive, but it'll make you feel classy. The Front Page (1333 New Hampshire Ave. NW) is dark and filled with the kind of guy who never got over college, but it has half-price appetizers and discounted cocktails between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. every weekday. Try the wings.

That's De-Press-ing

But if The Post fails to score any Pulitzers, it's clearly because awards mean nothing and nobody appreciates good old-fashioned journalism anymore because they have been poisoned by the Internet. So, where better to go than the Bottom Line (1716 I St. NW)? Besides the demoralizing name, it has a beat-the-clock happy hour that lets you get Miller Lite bottles for \$1 to \$2.50, plus \$3.50 baskets of wings.

Comments? Give Fiona your feedback: expressnightout.com/boozeclues

Not Exactly a Dream

Natalie Merchant's 'Leave Your Sleep' is an awkwardly long snooze inducer

CD Review

Natalie Merchant's newest solo release, the two-disc "Leave Your Sleep," is not exactly a collection of lullabies — it's called "Leave your Sleep," after all, despite what some of her song titles might imply ("The Land of Nod," "Sweet and a Lullaby," "Autumn Lullaby" and so on).



Leave Your Sleep Natalie

Instead, it sounds more like songs for and about childhood, with many of these tunes feeling like fantastical tales of another world. That literate vibe is due in large part to Merchant's many collaborators: the album's lyrics are all sourced from poetry.

Outsourcing her lyrics is a not that bizarre a choice for Merchant, whose words often faded into the background in her solo work and with her old band, 10,000 Maniacs.

It's hard to believe that Merchant hasn't had a single thing to say of her own in nearly a decade; her most recent solo effort, 2003's "The House Carpenter's Daughter," was a collection of folk covers.



On "Leave Your Sleep." Merchant borrows her lyrics from poets such as e.e. cummings.

Even tougher to chew, though, is "Sleep's" sheer length; these 26 songs clock in at nearly two hours. Her record label must've felt the overwhelmingness, too, because an abridged, one-disc version shares

the same release date.

Not surprisingly for any album of this length, "Leave Your Sleep" is a mixed bag: There are some real clunkers here. "Bleezer's Ice-Cream" shouldn't even make the

Words

The Borrower

On "Leave Your Sleep," Merchant's lyrics aren't the only thing she lifted from verse. The title is a line from a Mother Goose rhyme, she told Granta online magazine in an interview. The line was written during a time when children spent the day laboring, Merchant says. It instructs them to leave everything behind, including their supper and their sleep, to go out and play, (EXPRESS)

cut on a dedicated children's album. The tongue twisting in "The Walloping Window Blind" is difficult to follow, and Merchant sounds like she's just going through the motions on a quirky tune where a wink and a smirk would serve better.

Where Merchant fails on the childlike tunes here, she really finds her niche on the more dreamlike tracks. "The Man in the Wilderness" sounds like the story of a vision, while "If No One Ever Marries Me" conveys a weariness and sorrow that really suits her voice. And while these songs are pleasant, they can't save this lengthy collection from its overall sleepy vibe. CATHERINE LEWIS (EXPRESS)

Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol Street, NE; April 30. 8:30 p.m., \$45.

••••••



lookout expressnightout.com



A Life in Food Ruth Reichl has been a cook, a restaurant critic (for the New York Times) and the editor of the recently shuttered Gourmet Magazine. Her books on food are clever, insightful and full of recipes. She'll be speaking about her latest, "For You, Mom, Finally," at the Smithsonian tonight. F.z. National Museum of Natural History, Baird Auditorium, 10th **Street and Constitution Avenue** NW; 6:45 p.m., \$25; 202-633-3030, Residentassociates.org. (Smithsonian)

Away They Go Vendela Vida deserves

to be famous for more than being hipster icon Dave Eggers' wife. She's written novels and a screenplay, and she's appearing at the Folger with her coeditor of the Believer magazine, Heidi Julavits, who has also written novels. SO STOP TALKING ABOUT DAVE EGGERS, ALREADY. F.Z. Folger Theatre, 201 East Capitol St. SE; 7:30 p.m., \$15; 202-544-7077, Folger.edu. (Capitol South)

Benefit Performance
For those of you with money to throw around, here's a good place to throw it. Signature Theatre is honor-

ing Angela Lansbury (yes, she'll be attending) with an evening of musical performances and dinner. Your cash goes to help the theater stay alive. F.z. Embassy of Italy, 3000 Whitehaven St.

NW; \$650; 571-527-1828, Sig-online.org. (Woodley Park)

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entertainment lookout

So Long, Southern Belle

'Designing Women' star Dixie Carter dies at the age of 70

Obituary

"Designing Women" star Dixie Carter, whose Southern charm and natural beauty won her a host of television roles, has died at age 70.

Carter died Saturday morning, according to publicist Steve Rohr, who represents Carter and her husband, actor Hal Holbrook. He declined to disclose the cause of death or where she died. Carter lived with Holbrook in the Los Angeles area.

"This has been a terrible blow to our family," Holbrook said in a written statement. "We would



Dixie Carter was married to actor Hal Holbrook and had two daughters.

appreciate everyone understanding that this is a private family tragedy."

A native of Tennessee, Carter was most famous for playing wisecracking Southerner Julia Sugarbaker for seven years on "Designing Women," a CBS sitcom that ran from 1986 to 1993. The series was the peak of a career in which she often played self-important but independent Southern women.

She was nominated for an Emmy in 2007 for her seven-episode guest stint on the ABC hit "Desperate Housewives."

Carter's other credits include roles on the series "Family Law" and "Diff'rent Strokes."

She married Holbrook in 1984. The two had met four years earlier while making the TV movie "The Killing of Randy Webster." They finally wed two years before Carter landed her role on "Designing Women." In addition to Holbrook, Carter is survived by daughters Mary Dixie and Ginna.

ANDREW DALTON (AP)

Healthy Adult Volunteers Needed

The National Institute of Mental Health is conducting a study of mild stress and memory. Participants will be interviewed and will complete a series of tasks during which physiological functioning will be recorded. Volunteers must:

- Be between the ages of 18-45
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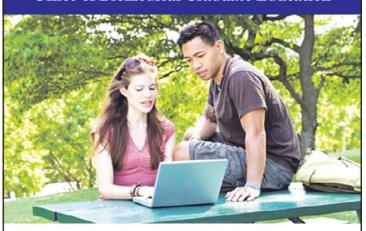
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.....





The Big Bang Theory

Sheldon (Jim Parsons, left) finds himself facing off once again with his wilv nemesis — we're speaking, of course, of former "Star Trek: The Next Generation" star Wil Wheaton (as himself, right) this time in a bowling alley in "The Wheaton Recurrence."



CSI: Miami Horatio and his team split up to investigate three murders that happened during spring break, as student bodies start to pile up in the new episode "Spring Breakdown."



Among the Righteous

Rob Satloff throws himself into a search for Arab heroes in the fate of the halfmillion Jews of North Africa under Nazi, Vichy and Fascist rule. Khaled Abdul-Wahab, right, rescued two dozen Jews during the Holocaust. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)





All the Wrong Moves

To say Kate Gosselin has room to improve on "DTWS" is an understatement. She danced so poorly last week she provoked a tirade of negative remarks from judge

Bruno Tonioli. But "Dancing" viewership was stronger than ever. The Tuesday show drew more viewers than "American Idol." Will the producers want Gosselin to stick around because she draws viewers, or get rid of her because she can't dance? Tonight, we'll know. Kevin McDonough (United Feature Syndicate)

Cult Fave



Don't Shoot!

On "How I Met Your Mother" (8 p.m., CBS), a freakedout Lily wants to get a gun after Marshall (Jason Segel, above) is mugged, a prospect so frightening that it motivates her hubby to come up with an increasingly complicated variation on the incident to calm her fears and keep her from following through on the weapons purchase in the brand-new episode "Zoo or False." (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

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weddings lookout

BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS



Meredith Gill, John Green

Meredith, 29, is a senior financial analyst. John, 27, is a financial adviser. They live in Arlington.

- The Main Event: They'll tie the knot May 1 at a semiformal ceremony; Meredith's grandmother, a Methodist pastor, will officiate.
- Honeymoon: "Heaven," says Meredith: aka Santorini, Tuscany, Florence, Venice and Paris.
- How They Met: She was checking out a shared house in Dewey Beach, Del., and he was one of the members. "I borrowed her sunglasses and kept them that night," John says. "That way it would give me a chance to get

her number when she had to wake me up the next morning to take them back. My plan worked."

- First Impressions: "I thought she was gorgeous and I needed to do something to get her attention."
- First Date: Dinner at Pazo in Baltimore.
- How He Proposed: He surprised her the night before they were leaving on a nine-day trip to Spain with a candlelit dinner. "After many excited phone calls and finally eating the

"I borrowed her sunglasses and kept them that night ... to get her number."

amazing dinner, we remembered we had a flight in the morning and had to pack! I managed to forget a number of things," Meredith says.

■ **Stupidest Fight:** "It took us a very long time to agree on the name of our dog," Meredith says. John says: "I won that fight. His name is Reagan."



A Perfect Match.com

It almost didn't happen: Jenny Myers sent Mike Smuland a message on dating site Match.com, thinking he was cute. But Mike, just back from New Orleans and "sick as a dog with the voodoo flu," didn't e-mail back. Jenny canceled her Match. com subscription, and two days before she'd no longer be able to receive messages, Mike wrote her back. They quickly set a date and, once they met in person, talked for hours.

Mike was smitten after their first date, but it wasn't till a few years later that he bought the ring, letting it burn a hole in his pocket. Then one day he just got out of bed, grabbed the ring and proposed. "It was unplanned and spur-of-themoment, which was exactly what I wanted," Jenny says.

Jenny, 25, is a media buyer. Mike, 36, is a technical operations manager. They live in Springfield, and are marrying on April 17.



Carol Cole, Vincent Kenner

Carol, 56, is a financial management specialist. Vincent, 64, is retired. They will live in Greenbelt.

- The Main Event: On April 16, they'll wed at a small, intimate ceremony. They'll both walk down the aisle to Etta James' "At Last."
- How They Met: At a "Cyber Space" party in 1990. "A mutual friend was holding the party to introduce us to Cyber Space, now known as the Internet," Carol says.
- First Impressions: Vincent: "I thought Carol was and still is —so hot and out of my league." Carol says: "I didn't even know he was there. I was so into the Cyber Space thing."
- **First Date:** Dinner at Carolina Kitchen in Hyattsville, 20 years after they first met.
- How He Proposed: A week after their first date, he sent her a text saying, "Let's get married today." He asked her officially a few weeks later.
- When She Knew: After she met his mom. "Any man that cares so much for his mother had to be a good catch."



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Poll Center

Today's Question

SHOULD RUSSIA SUSPEND **ALL CHILD ADOPTIONS WITH AGENCIES IN THE U.S.?**

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Friday's Results

IS OBAMA'S GOAL OF A **WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS REALISTIC?**

78% 22%

"While a non-nuclear world is highly desirable, given the level of testosterone in all parties involved, it seems quite improbable. What I'm really excited about is having a president who can actually pronounce 'nuclear."

COMMENTER CHUBBYDCBLACKMAN

"Nuclear weapons are ... a status symbol. Trying to rid the world of nuclear weapons now would be like trying to take all the illegal firearms from criminals ... impossible and unrealistic."

AN ANONYMOUS COMMENTER

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"Mitt Romney won the SRLC straw poll, so what does that tell us? It tells us that Mitt Romney was better at gaming the straw poll this time than Ron Paul was."

- ANOTHERBLACKCONSERVATIVE.BLOGSPOT. **COM** WAS NOT TOO IMPRESSED BY THE FORMER MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR'S POPULARITY AT THE SOUTHERN REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.



"Am I the only **Cowboys fan** that feels that the demise of our football cathedral is being handled all wrong and not with the dignity it deserves?"

- LONESTARSTRUCK.COM WAS OFFENDED BY THE FACT THAT KRAFT FOODS SPONSORED THE IMPLOSION OF TEXAS STADIUM SUNDAY WITH AN EVENT TO PROMOTE THEIR NEW MACARONI & CHEESE PRODUCT NAMED "CHEDDAR EXPLOSION."

"I feel like Justin Bieber scored some points. [But] I wasn't exactly sure if he was being put on 'Saturday Night Live' to help himself or to help the show expand its audience to include every girl under age 20 in America."

- BLASTMAGAZINE.COM THOUGHT THE POP SINGER'S APPEAR-ANCE ON THE NBC SHOW MIGHT HAVE BEEN NOTHING MORE THAN A BRAZEN RATINGS GRAB

"ALTHOUGH 'OZ' was the only movie he appeared in, his 12 seconds of screen time warbling his lines were memorable."

- BLOGOFOZ.BLOGSPOT.COM LAMENTS THE DEATH OF MEINHARDT RAABE, WHO PLAYED THE MUNCHKIN CORONER IN "THE WIZARD OF OZ." RAABE'S LINES: "AS CORONER, I MUST AVER, I'VE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED HER, AND SHE'S NOT ONLY MERELY DEAD, SHE'S REALLY MOST SINCERELY DEAD.'



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puzzles lookout

Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You will want to keep your eyes and ears open, absorbing as much information as possible, before the time comes to begin formulating opinions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You may be unusually high-spirited and willing to try things that would normally not be in your repertoire. Don't get careless.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You can afford to be a little more forthcoming with your thoughts and opinions. You needn't be secretive and elusive.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A bit of bad news can actually serve to inspire you to new heights — when the time comes. First, however, keep reactions in line.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Someone else may be calling the shots, but you are the one making sure everything happens the way it should. Quality is key.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You'll be able to put in a little extra work before the day is out, increasing your rewards a measurable amount as a result.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Give others a little more free rein, and observe their actions closely. You'll learn a great deal about your leadership abilities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) A careful reconstruction of certain events will allow you to understand your behavior better and make a more informed life choice.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You'll have trouble hearing what others

have to say for the simple reason that you haven't finished saying what's on your mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You're eager to be on the move, but certain $things-or\ certain\ people-may\ be$ holding you back. Or so you think.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You're more than willing to volunteer your time and energy to a worthy cause, but scheduling your involvement may be rather tricky.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Make sure that you're keeping any and all promises you may have made recently. Now is not the time to let anyone down — for any reason.



Scrabble Grams PAR SCORE 145-155, BEST SCORE 204

Double Word Score

3rd Letter

Triple

RACK 4

RACK 1

RACK 2

RACK 3

Friday's Solution

C ₃ O ₁ H ₄ O ₁ S ₁ T ₁	RACK 1 =	11_
A ₁ F ₄ F ₄ A ₁ B ₃ L ₁ E ₁	RACK 2 =	65
E ₁ N ₁ C ₃ L ₁ A ₁ V ₄ E ₁	RACK 3 =	65
M ₃ A ₁ N ₁ D ₂ A ₁ T ₁ E ₁	RACK 4 =	80_
PAR SCORE 150-160	TOTAL	221

FOUR RACK TOTAL

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

7	5			3	4			
	1				2			6
6						4		
6 4		6			7	9		1
3		1	9			6		5
		7						5 8
2			8				4	
			3	2			7	9

Friday's Solution

ı	1	8	6	5	7	2	3	4	9
ı	7	5	2	9	3	4	1	8	6
ı	4	3	9	8	6	1	7	5	2
ı	5	1	8		9	7	2	6	
ı	3	9	7	2	8	6	4	1	5
ı	6	2	4	3	1	5	9	7	8
ı	9	7	1	6	2	8	5		4
ı	2	6	5	7	4	3	8		1
	8	4	3	1	5	9	6	2	7

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Find another puzzle in the Comics section of The Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

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Comics

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POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN









PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS







Forecast



Today: Mostly sunny today. Partly cloudy toniaht.



60 45

Tomorrow: A little rain tomorrow afternoon. Rain and drizzle tomorrow night.

Looking Ahead







Almanac

66 47 72 54 74 53

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today: 6:36 a.m. Sunset today: 7:42 p.m. Moonrise today: 5:20 a.m. Moonset today: 6:13 p.m.

Normal high: 65 Record high: 91 Normal low: 44 Record low: 26

FORECAST BY ACCUWEATHER.COM © 2009



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36

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51

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60

63

Crossword

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

12

34

55

10

16

19

39

42

59

62

65

29

50

ACROSS

- 1 It's donned
- 5 Spinnakers, e.g.
- 10 Narcissist's concern
- 14 Brainy output
- 15 Make paste
- 16 Reason for a backrub
- 17 Laughs at, say
- 18 Make retribution
- 19 Design problem
- 20 "Just a moment"
- 23 Kind of code
- 24 Pray ground?
- 25 Portfolio units
- 28 "Careful there"
- 30 Where Honolulu is 31 Hollywood production
- 33 Kind of rally or talk
- 36 Some fourth-quarter
- strategies in football
- 40 Where a telescope is aimed
- 41 Purebreds' opposites
- 42 Proclaim profanely
- 43 Fill the stomach of
- 44 Determined in advance
- 46 Took a mighty cut
- 49 Tough pill to swallow
- 51 Time for a mini-vacation, for many
- 57 Post-bout garb
- 58 Erased, mob-style
- 59 Facial tissue additive
- 60 Apple application, once
- 61 Long-armed ape
- 62 Chance to play
- 63 Calligraphy implements
- 64 Telegraph inventor
- 65 Some shade providers

DOWN

- 1 Acronymic truism for computers

- 2 Words before "of thieves"
- 3 Anatomical network
- 4 Percussion kit component
- 5 Parking lot divisions
- 6 Common carriers

- 7 "Dead Ringers" star Jeremy
- 8 Offer temporarily
- 9 Slowly leak
- 10 Without mishap
- 11 Brilliant success
- 12 Dalai Lama's city
- 13 Smaller in number
- 21 Palindromic preposition
- 22 Light show beam
- 25 They're often wasted
- 26 Sell with a yell
- 27 Nautical attention-
- aetter
- 28 Festive times
- 29 Word after "visual" or
- "hearing"
- 31 Remote control button
- 32 Baseball's Little Giant

- 33 Sign between numbers, sometimes
- 34 Ultimatum's ultimate word
- 35 Sound from an exam cheater
- 37 Persona

15

18

38

52 53

58

61

64

37

- 38 Waldorf salad tidbit 39 One way to enjoy a
- frozen lake
- 43 Scornful expressions
- 44 Promise to PBS
- 45 Actress McClanahan
- 46 Camcorder
- attachment
- 47 Total
- 48 Type of legend
- 49 Overwhelmingly 50 1936 Olympic hero

- 52 Gloom partner
- 53 Do groomed with a pick
- 54 Last Jewish month
- 55 Group standard
- 56 Poker game locales, often

Friday's Solution

¹ A	² P	³ T	⁴s		⁵ A	۴ν	⁷ A		°L		¹⁰ P	"о	¹² T	¹³ S
14 N	0	Α	Н		15 N	0	R	S	Е		16 U	Т	Α	Н
17 _G	R	-1	М		18 K	0	Α	٦	Α		¹⁹ T	0	K	Ε
20	т	С	0	²¹ U	L	D	В	Е	v	²² E	R	s	Е	
²³ N	Α	Н		24 N	Е	0			²⁵ E	R	- 1	С	Α	²⁶ S
27A	L	-1	28 M	В		²⁹ O	°D	ž D		32 A	D	0	В	Е
			33O	Α	34 F		35 _O	-1	36L			37 P	0	-1
	38 A	39B	Α	R	D	⁴⁰ S	Е	Υ	Е	11 _V	⁴² l	Е	W	
43	L	L			44 A	Р	R		"D	Е	N			
⁴⁵ \$	т	Α	⁴⁷ \$	⁴⁸ H		⁴⁹ A	\$	°s		⁵¹ G	N	52 A	53 R	⁵⁴ L
ss M	Α	т	т	Е	58 D			57 P	⁵⁸ E	А		⁵⁹ L	Е	Α
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<mark>Today</mark> in History

1861 The Civil Wall Stall 1868 S. Confederates take Fort The Civil War starts as the Sumter in Charleston, S.C.

The Salk vaccine for polio is

2009 U.S. Navy snipers open fire and kill three pirates

holding an American captain at gunpoint. delivering the captain unharmed and ending a five-day, high-seas hostage drama.

express



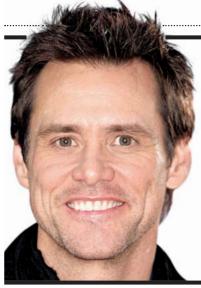
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people lookout



Jenny McCarthy Is So Glad They Broke Up

You may think Tiger Woods' wife Elin was an innocent bystander in her husband's cheating scandal, but Jim Carrey doesn't. According to E! online, Carrey recently tweeted that while Woods was "wrong" for behaving badly, ""No wife is blind enough to miss that much infidelity. Elin had 2 b a willing participant on the ride 4 whatever reason. Kids/lifestyle." (EXPRESS)

ENGAGEMENTS

Actress Figuratively Flips Prop 8 the Bird

Everybody's favorite funny lady, Jane Lynch (of "Glee"), is engaged. On Saturday, Lynch, 49, revealed to Usmagazine.com that the rumors are ${\sf true-she's\ betrothed\ to\ her\ longtime}$ girlfriend, psychologist Lara Embry. She added that they don't know when they'll get married, "but I have a ring and everything. We're very happy and very excited!" (EXPRESS)



"Glee" fans everywhere just want to talk about the show's new episodes.



APPROVAL

Catty Women Everywhere Beg to Differ, Jillian

Former "Bachelorette" Jillian Harris has said she thinks "Bachelor" star Jake Pavelka and the woman he picked, Vienna Girardi, are good for each other. According to People.com, Harris said Thursday that she was skeptical of his choice at first, but after spending time with Vienna said, "She's a doll." Harris added: "I like her as a person. I saw she brought out a better side of him." (EXPRESS)



REPEAT OFFENDERS

Lucky Number Nine

According to ABC News, Elizabeth Taylor is engaged again. This time, it's to 49-year-old talent manager Iason Winters. Sources close to Taylor, 78, confirmed that she and Winters have been "together for some time," and the actress called him "the most wonderful man" she knows in 2007. Taylor has been married eight times to seven husbands — she married Richard Burton twice. The couple have not released details on when they will wed. (EXPRESS)

Surprises

Didn't See **That Coming**

Sure, Lady Gaga might prance around onstage in next to nothing (and then there's the uncut version of the "Telephone" video), but that doesn't mean she has sex, people! In fact, the 24-year-old Gaga told London's Daily Mail that she's celibate. "I can't believe I'm saying this — don't have sex. I'm single right now. ... I'm celi-

bate; celibacy's fine," she said.

(EXPRESS)

"We named our new member of our familv in honor of one of the most courageous, dedicated humans we have come in contact with — our pup's name is Sgt. Maj. Kasal."



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